ANTITHESIS,

WHEREIN ARE COMPARED TOGETHER

CHRIST'S ACTS AND THE POPE'S,

GATHERED BY

JOHN FRITH,

AND ANNEXED UNTO THE REVELATION OF ANTICHRIST,
WHICH HE TRANSLATED, 1529.

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[Lyndale, William]

THE WORKS

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OF THE

ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH

REFORMERS.

EDITED BY

THOMAS RUSSELL, A.M.

Ἀνθρώποις παραδεδωκόσι τὰς ψυχὰς αὐτῶν ὑπὲρ τοῦ ὀνόματος τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.—Act. Apost. xv. 26.

VOL. IV.

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VOL. IV.

The Works of Tyndale continued:

THE TESTAMENT OF WILLIAM TRACY EXPOUNDED.

THE SUPPER OF THE LORD.

The Works of Frith.

HIS LIFE AND MARTYRDOM.

A DISPUTATION OF PURGATORY.

A BULWARK AGAINST RASTELL.

HIS JUDGMENT UPON TRACY'S TESTAMENT.

A LETTER WRITTEN FROM THE TOWER TO CHRIST'S CONGREGATION.

A MIRROR, OR GLASS TO KNOW THYSELF.

A TREATISE UPON THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM.

AN ANTITHESIS BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE POPE.

A BOOK OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST.

ARTICLES FOR WHICH HE DIED.

EPISTLE TO THE CHRISTIAN READER, PREFIXED TO THE REVELATION OF ANTICHRIST.

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ANTITHESIS,

WHEREIN ARE COMPARED TOGETHER

CHRIST'S ACTS AND THE POPE'S,

GATHERED BY

JOHN FRITH,

AND ANNEXED UNTO THE REVELATION OF ANTICHRIST, WHICH HE TRANSLATED, 1529.

WE have annexed, Christian Reader, unto the end of the Revelation, a little treatise, after the manner of an epitome, and short rehearsal of all things that are examined more diligently in the aforesaid book, wherein their false and cloaked hypocrisy is abundantly opened, by the comparing of Christ's acts and theirs together; for Christ's rule cannot be deceivable, which saith, that we should know them by their works; for Paul saith, that such false apostles are wicked workers, which be transfigured into Christ's apostles. And no marvel, for Satan himself is sometimes transfigured into an angel of light; therefore it is no great thing if that his ministers do take upon them a similitude, as though they were the ministers of justice, whose end shall be according to their works. Christian men should mark such, and fly away from them, for such serve not Christ, but their own bellies, and by sweet preachings and flattering words deceive the hearts of the innocents. And even as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, even so these resist the truth. Men they are of corrupt minds, and lewd as concerning the faith; but they shall prevail no longer, for their madness shall be uttered unto all men,

Matt. vii.

2 Cor. xi.

2 Tim. iii.

Exod. ii.

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as theirs was. Thus the people be blinded, falling into unbelief, and are deceived through the sleighty conveyance of Antichrist and his adherents. Saint John said, that there were many antichrists in his time; no wonder if now be more: howbeit by their works they shall be known, and also by their words, for they shall contrary Christ both in life and learning, whom they profess to follow. Now let us consider popes, cardinals, bishops, suffragans, archdeacons, deacons, officials, parsons, abbots, with deans, and friars, sumners, pardoners, and these papal notaries, take heed to monks, canons, anchors, hermits, nuns, and sisters, and mark how they follow Christ. We will chiefly touch the head, which is the Pope, although it may be verified through all his members.

John iv.

Matt. viii. 1. CHRIST was poor, saying, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not whereon to lay his head.

The Pope and his adherents are rich, for the Pope saith, Rome is mine, Sicilia is mine, Corsica is mine, &c. And his adherents have also fruitful possessions, this every man knoweth.

John vi. 2. Christ was meek and low, and forsook this worldly
John vi. glory, and fled alone unto the mountains, when the peo-
John xvii. ple would have made him a king, saying, My kingdom is not of this world.

The Pope is full high and proud, saying, I am a Lord of both the realms, earthly and heavenly, and the emperor is my subject: this witnesseth his law. *Dist.* 96. *ca. Si imperator.*

John xiii. 3. Christ full lowly and meekly washed his disciples' feet.

The Pope saith, the emperors and kings shall kneel and kiss my feet, and is not ashamed to express it in the law. *ca. Cum olim de privil. elec.*

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4. Christ came not to be served, but to serve, taking upon him the similitude of a servant; humbling himself, and made himself of no reputation to serve us. Luke xxii. Phil. ii.

The Pope will be served, and saith, it were a shame if he should so humble himself. *Dist.* 86. *ca. Quando necessitas.*

5. Christ went on his feet with his disciples, both in wet and dry, heat and cold, to teach the people, as it is evident through the Gospels.

The Pope and bishops will keep their feet full clean with shoes of gold and silver, set with precious stones, and will not preach themselves, but say it is sufficient to cause others to preach. *ca. Inter ceteram de offic. Iv. or.* After this manner might the Turk be Pope also.

6. Christ would not suffer that doves, sheep, and oxen, for the offering, should be sold in the temple of God, but drove out the buyers and sellers with whips. Matt. xxi.

The Pope and bishops suffer chapmen in the church, that minister the sacraments for money daily unto the common people. And they give great pardon unto it, that they may be partakers of the winning, to maintain their cradles and other necessaries withal: this may you see daily.

7. Christ saith, ye have it for nothing, therefore shall ye give it for nothing. Matt. x.

The Pope hath Judas's mind, for you get nothing of him without money, for he selleth both prayer and preaching.

8. Christ sat at meat among his disciples full lowly and poorly, not requiring the highest seat. Luke xxii.

The Pope sitteth full high in a curious throne, and will be served gloriously, with long kneeling, and men to carve his morsels, with jagged coats, blaspheming God with oaths, and many other vices, as we may see daily.

9. Christ was in hills with weeping and praying, and Matt. xiv. and xv.

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walked in deserts, feeding many thousands both with meat and preaching.

The Pope sitteth in his castles and towers with minstrelsy and laughter, and the hungry poor shall sit at the gate; he will not serve them himself, for shame he thinketh it were.

Matt. viii. 10. Christ lay and slept in a boat on the hard boards, and had to his chamberlains but fishers, crying to him upon the sea in the tempest, when they were afraid to perish.

The Pope sleepeth full soft and easily, and no man may awake him until he have slept enough; for his chamberlains shall be ready with marshals and others to keep his hall and chamber from noise; and the porter at the gate to keep out the poor: their Lord they will not awake.

Matt. xxi. 11. Christ fasted, and sought the fruit on the tree when he was hungry, and found none thereon.

The Pope hath great provision at cities and towns to get him of the best that may be found, well dressed, and daintily, to make digestion, with spices, sauces, and syrups, coloured out of kind.

Luke ii. 12. Christ lay in a stable with a few clothes, betwixt an ox and an ass, for the place was narrow.

The Pope, in rich chambers, with quilts, curtains, carpets, and cushions, spread all about, with sweet smells, and painted walls.

Matt. xi. 13. Christ chose to him poor men, and commanded them to be simple as doves.

The Pope chooseth subtle men and crafty, full of pride, or else they are not meet for him.

Matt. xxi. 14. Christ rode simply on an ass, and had twelve that followed him on foot all about.

The Pope on a mule, or a white palfrey, much higher than his master did; and hath many more than twelve following him on horseback, with swords and bucklers, as it were to battle.

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15. Christ bade his disciples to go into all the world, and to preach the gospel to every creature. Mark xvi.

The Pope and his bishops forbid it, on the pain of disobedience and excommunication, save only such as they will assign.

16. Christ was naked, beaten, scourged, and false witness brought against him. John xix.

The Pope and his adherents are well clothed with precious garments, and have change for each day; and false witness they have enough, not against them, but to testify with them whatsoever they will have against the innocents.

17. Christ came to seek the poor and comfort them; he was not chargeful unto them, but was mild, and had pity on them.

The Pope and bishops summon and cite them, be they never so poor, not regarding their adversity, but curse if they come not. So that they go away sorrier and sicker in soul and in purse than they were before.

18. Christ commanded that we should not swear at all, neither by heaven, neither by the temple, &c. but that our words should be, yea, yea, nay, nay. Matt. v.

The Pope saith, if any man will receive any office under us, he shall be sworn before, yea, and give a great sum of money. *ca. Signifi. de elect.*

19. Christ had a crown of thorns thrust upon his head, so that the blood ran down upon his amiable countenance, and sharp nails through his precious hands. John xix.

The Pope must wear three crowns of gold, set with rich precious stones; he lacketh no diadems; his hands and fingers with ouches and rings are royally decked: he passeth poor Christ far. *ca. Constat. Dist. xcvi.*

20. Christ took the cross of painful affliction upon himself, and commanded his disciples to follow him, saying, He that taketh not his cross and follow me, is not meet for me. Matt. x.

The Pope and his bishops take the cross of pride,

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and have it borne before them, well gilt and enamelled, to have a worship of this world; as for other cross, know they none.

Luke xxiii. 21. Christ prayed his Father to forgive them that trespassed against him, yea, and for them that put him to death.

Our bishops pray the King to be avenged on them that resist their minds; with forgiveness they have no acquaintance.

22. Christ bade his disciples to preach the gospel.

The Pope and his bishops will have men to preach fables, and then to grant letter and seal, and many days of pardon.

John xix. 23. Christ commanded his disciples to know his law, and bade the Jews to search the Scriptures; and Exod. xvi. Moses exhorted the Israelites to teach the law of God to their young children. And that they should have it bound as a sign in their hands, that it might ever be before their eyes; and caused them to write it on the posts and doors of their houses.

The Pope and his bishops say, that it is not meet for us to know it; they make it heresy and treason to the King to know Christ or his laws; they have digged cisterns of their own traditions, and have stopped up the pure fountains of Israel. Oh Lord, in whom is all our trust, come down from the heavens; why dost thou tarry so long, seeing thine adversary thus prevailing against thee?

Heb. ix. 24. Christ approved his law, and confirmed it with his own death.

The Pope and bishops be full busy how they may destroy it, and magnify more their own law than Christ's, to maintain their fat bellies.

Matt. xxv. 25. Christ would men visited prisoners, to comfort and deliver them.

The Pope, with his adherents, discomfort the poor and the true, and put them in prison for the truth.

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26. Christ, whom they call their example, did never prison nor persecute any.

The Pope and his champions persecute, punish, prison, and put to death, them that are disobedient to their voluptuous pleasures. Ye see how straight they follow Christ's steps.

27. Christ commanded his disciples, that if any man trespassed against them, they should go and reprove him privily; if he would not obey and be reconciled, then should they take with them one witness or twain; if he would not then hear them, that they should tell it to the whole congregation; and if he would still continue in his stubbornness, that they should avoid his company. Matt. xviii.

The Pope and bishops will cast straight into prison, there to remain in irons, to make them revoke the truth, and grant to their wills; and if he be strong and will not forsake the truth, they will condemn him without audience, for fear of losing of their temporal winning, and offering to their wombs, and taking away of their temporalities, wherewith the church is venomed.

28. Christ charged Peter thrice to keep well and nourish his sheep. John xxi.

The Pope chargeth much more to keep well his money. As for the sheep, he sheareth and punisheth with infinite exactions.

29. Christ healing the sick, and doing many miracles, did lightly ever command that they should tell no man who did heal them. Matt. viii. Mark i. Luke v.

The Pope and bishops give great gifts to minstrels and messengers, to lewd liars and flatterers, to cry their name about, that they may have worship in this world.

30. Christ had no secular courts to plead the matters of his disciples, for they would not resist evil. Matt. v.

The Pope and bishops have many, with men of law to oppress the poor against mercy; forgive they will not, but ever be avenged.

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Matt. viii. and xvii. 31. Christ, in cities and towns, hunted the fiends out of men that they dwelled in with the words of his mouth.

The Pope and bishops hunt the wild deer, the fox, and the hare, in their closed parks, with great cries, and horns blowing, with hounds and ratches running.

John xxii. 32. God was called the Holy Father of Jesus Christ his Son.

The Pope is called Most Holy Father of Satan's children, and taketh that name on him with Lucifer's pride: his disciples say that he is God on earth, and we are taught by Christ's law to have but one God.

Luke ii. 33. Christ sate in the midst of the Doctors, asking and hearing them.

The Pope and bishops sit in thrones with glorious mitres, judging and condemning by their own made laws, a little matter long in pleading, which might be soon determined by the law of God, if they would use it, but then were their winning the less, and their law without profit.

Matt. v. 34. Christ taught that a man should forsake his wife for no cause but for advoutry.

The Pope and bishops will make divorces for money as often as they list; and so they pillage the poor and make themselves rich, nothing regarding to break the law of God.

Acts ii. 35. Christ sent the Holy Ghost in fervent love to teach all the truth unto them which were chosen of God.

The Pope and bishops send commandments all about to curse and ask vengeance on them that resist their tyranny, and absolve them again clean for money; all their doctrines have golden tails, for money is ever the end; give them money, and you have fulfilled all their laws.

Matt. iii. 36. Christ fulfilled and kept the old law and the new, and all righteousness.

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The Pope and bishops keep their own traditions and laws, but the law of God is clean out of their minds.

37. Christ said, that men should know his disciples by their charity, because they should love one another as he hath loved them. John xii.

The Pope causeth his to be known by their shaven crowns; by gathering up of tithes, mass-pence, and offerings; by the golden trentals, and salaries to sing; by Peter-pence gathering, and striving for money; by penny-wedding, and holy water sprinkling, and many more marks hath he given them: as for charity, they know it not at all.

38. Christ bade them that he healed to go and sin no more. John ix.

The Pope and bishops have feigned penance, and command men to fast bread and water, to go barefoot, without a shirt, and to offer to certain idols money, or cattle. Some masses must be sung for them because their confessors should have some profit. Some must go about the church and churchyard with a taper burning in his hand; and ever some be punished by the purse, though they offend not.

39. Christ sent to preach seventy and two disciples, which promised freely heaven to them that would believe in the name of Christ. Luke x.

The Pope and bishops send about four sects of beggars to give pardon unto their master Antichrist, and to sell heaven to whomsoever they list: the apostles knew no such things.

40. Christ was buried in a garden, in a poor monument, without any funeral pomp. John xix.

The Pope and bishops are buried in tombs well gilt, with many a torch, and great solemnity, with angels gloriously pourtrayed, that bear their souls to heaven. Notwithstanding, it is to be feared that they go to supper with the devil.

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Matt. xix. 41. Christ saith, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell all thy goods and give it unto the poor, for then shalt thou have treasure in heaven.

The Pope saith, If thou wilt be perfect, give me thy money; and I will give thee a pardon that shall absolve thee clean *à pœna et culpa;* I will for thy money give thee the key of heaven gates.

Luke xxii. 42. Christ said unto his apostles, The kings and princes of the Gentiles have rule and power over them, but you shall not so have.

The Pope saith, All emperors, kings, and lords be my subjects. This is daily read in his bulls, wherein he commandeth the nobility, like as a master doth his servant.

Matt. xxiii. Mark ix. 43. Christ saith, He that among you will be greatest, let him be all your servants.

The Pope saith, The emperor must swear an oath unto me as unto his Lord, that he will be my subject, and exalt and worship me with honour. *ca. Tibi Domino. Dist.* 63.

Matt. xv. 44. Christ saith, that we worship him in vain with men's doctrines and traditions.

The Pope saith, My traditions in the spiritual law, shall be kept as duly as if God had commanded it himself, or St. Peter had preached it himself. *ca. Si omnes. Dist.* 19.

John xiv. 45. Christ saith, I am the way, and the truth; follow me in my learning. And rule you by the Scripture, for that shall be your judge.

The Pope saith, Ye shall in all things follow the Church of Rome, (by that meaneth he himself, and his cardinals,) *Dist. xi. ca. Quis nesciat.* And as for the Scripture, it standeth in my power and authority, for I may make of it whatsoever I will. *Dist. xix. ca. Si Romanorum.*

Mark xi. 46. Christ saith, He that believeth and is baptized, he shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.

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The Pope saith, He that giveth much money for my pardon shall be absolved *à pœna et à culpa*, and then must he needs be saved; and he that teacheth otherwise is an heretic: this testifieth his bulls and pardons.

47. Christ promiseth forgiveness of sin, and the kingdom of heaven, unto them that repent and will amend their lives. Matt. iv.

The Pope saith, that no man can be saved, except he be first shriven of his priest and friars; for they bring in money. *ca. Omnes.*

48. Christ saith, You shall love your enemies, and shall do good unto them that hate you. Matt. v.

The Pope saith, They that be enemies to me and my cardinals be cursed with the great excommunication, and cannot be absolved without much money; this is evident enough.

49. Christ commanded his disciples not to resist evil, but if a man strike them on the one cheek, that they should offer him the other also. Matt. xvii.

The Pope saith, We may avenge and drive away force with force. *De sen. excom. ca. Dilecto.*

50. Christ, saith God the Father, is my dear son, him shall you hear, for his yoke is sweet, and his burden light. Matt. xi.

The Pope saith, You shall hear me, and my commandment shall be kept and received of every man. *Dist.* 93. *ca. Si cujus.* And if my commandment and burthen were so heavy that it cannot well be sustained and borne, yet shall ye obey me. *Dist.* 19. *ca. In memoriam.*

51. Christ said unto the two brethren, Who hath set me to be your judge in temporal goods? as though he should say, It pertaineth not to me, but unto worldly judges. Luke xii.

The Pope saith, I am judge in all manner of causes, for they bring money unto me. 9. *q.* 3. *Conquestus.*

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Matt. xxii. 52. Christ saith, Give the emperor such as pertaineth
Matt. xvii. unto him as tribute and custom, for I have paid toll for me and Peter.

The Pope saith, I care not for this, but I excommunicate all them that ask any toll or tribute of me and my shavelings, for I have made them all free. *ca. Novit. de senten. excom. et ca. Si quis de cons. Dist. i.*

Matt. xxvi. 53. Christ saith, Peter, put up thy sword into the sheath, for he that striketh with sword, shall perish with the sword.

The Pope saith, You emperors, kings, princes, and lords, take swords, spears, halberds, clubs, and guns, and help me to slay them that will not obey my tyranny. This must an emperor do, or else he must be perjured. After this manner hath Julius the Pope slain sixteen thousand men in one day: was not that well pastored? Did not he well nourish the sheep which Christ did commit unto his tuition?

Matt. xxvi. 54. Christ said, Drink you all of this cup, for this is the blood of my promise.

The Pope saith, I will not grant this, for my priests alone shall drink of it, because it may cry vengeance on them alone, the other shall not drink of it in the pain of heresy.

John xv. 55. Christ saith, Ye are my friends if ye do all things that I myself command you.

The Pope saith, You shall do as I bid you, for I have power and authority to make laws, and after them shall you live. 25 *q. i. ca. Sunt quidam.*

Matt. xix. 56. Christ saith, that chastity is not given unto every man; they that have it given, let them take it, giving thanks to God; and let the other use the remedy which
1 Cor. vii. God hath prepared; for it is better to marry than to burn.

The Pope saith, All monks, friars, and nuns, shall vow and swear chastity, be it given them or not; my priests also shall not be wedded; but as for to keep whores,

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and ravish other men's daughters and wives, shall be dispensed withal. I will see no such things; for my bishops have yearly great money by it, like as bawds be wont to have.

57. Christ saith, All meats that man taketh with thanks staineth not the soul; for all things are pure to them that are pure. Matt. xv. Rom. xiv. Col. ii. Tit. i.

The Pope saith, He that eateth eggs, butter, or flesh, in these days that I have commanded to be fasted, doth not only stain his soul with sin, but also is to be denounced an heretic. *Dist.* 4. *ca. Statuimus.* This agreeth with Christ even as the light doth with the darkness. And yet have we been thus blinded long, that we could never perceive this Antichrist till now in the last days.

58. Christ said unto his disciples, That you bind in earth, shall be bound to you in heaven, and that you loose in earth, shall be loosed in heaven. Matt. xvi. Matt. xviii. John v.

The Pope challengeth greater authority; for he will loose souls out of purgatory, and command the angels to fetch them out, and all for money; without money you get nothing.

59. Christ saith, When you have done all things that I have commanded you, yet say that you are unprofitable servants. Luke xvii.

The Pope saith, Do these things that I command thee, and take a sure conscience unto thee that thou art a just and a religious man, and that thou hast deserved heaven. And as for I myself, if I do wrong in every thing, and bring many thousands with me into damnation, yet shall no man rebuke me, but call me the most holiest father. *Dist.* 40. *ca. Si Papa.* Oh, abomination!

60. Christ teacheth us to fulfil the works of mercy to the poor, ever commending mercy above offerings and sacrifice. Matt. xvi. Hosea vi. Matt. ix.

The Pope teacheth us to give our money for pardons, masses, diriges, to images and churches, so that

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we may offer unto their bellies. And he that saith it is better to give our charity to the poor, as Christ saith, is counted half an heretic, because he goeth about to marr the Pope's market.

Rom. iv. John xi. 61. Christ suffered death for our sins, and arose for our justification, or else we all should have perished.

The Pope saith, If thou buy my pardon, or else be buried in a gray friar's coat, thou must needs be saved; so that Christ hath suffered in vain, since a friar's coat will save a man.

1 John ii. James v. 62. Christ only is our mediator, which maketh unity betwixt his Father and us; howbeit the prayer of a just man is very good and profitable.

The Pope saith, The greatest power and salvation next to Christ is mine. *Dist. ix. ca. Si Papa.* I marvel then why he is so curious to cause us to worship the saints that are asleep, and not rather himself, since he challengeth a greater power than ever they did while they lived.

Matt. v. 63. Christ saith, Whosoever break one of my least commandments, shall be called the least (that is to say none) in the kingdom of heaven.

The Pope saith, What pertaineth his law unto me? I am subject to no laws. 25 *q.* 1. *ca. Omnia.* Therefore doth the Pope but seldom right; and is always against right, yea, and against his own laws, as often as men do bring him money, for that loveth he above all things.

Rom. xiii. 64. Christ's law is fulfilled through charity.

The Pope's law is fulfilled by money; if thou have no money to give them, thou shalt carry a faggot, though thou offend not: money them, and they see thee not, do what thou wilt.

Ephes. i. Coloss. i. 1 Cor. x. 65. Christ is the head of the church, as the apostle doth testify; and also the stone whereon the church is builded. And this church is the congregation of the faithful, and the very body of Christ.

The Pope saith, I am the head of the church. *Dist.*

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19. *ca. Enim vero.* and the seat of Rome is the stone whereon the church is builded. *Dist.* 19. *Ita Dominus.* Can any thing be more contrary unto the honour and glory of God, than thus to despoil him of his kingdom, which he so dearly hath bought, shedding his precious blood for it?

66. Christ's law, which is the holy Scripture, came by the inspiring of the Holy Ghost, which did infuse it abundantly into the hearts of the apostles, and of the same Spirit hath it his endurance and interpretation. 2 Pet. ii. 2 Tim. iii.

The Pope saith, I am Lord of the Scripture to allow and disallow it, for of me doth it take his full authority. *ca. Si omnes.* And for a token of this, is the Scripture of Christ laid under his feet when he is at mass.

67. Christ's apostle saith, that a bishop ought to be so well learned, that he, with the Scripture, be able to overcome all them that be against the faith. Tit. i.

The Pope and bishops will dispute in Scripture with no man, but cast them first in prison; and proper engines they have invented to wring their fingers so sore that the blood shall burst out at their fingers ends; they pin them, and scourge them with infinite other torments, paining them to forsake the truth. And after, make them swear on a book that they shall tell no man of it: thus cruelly do they entreat them against justice. And if they cannot subdue them to their wills, then do they commit them unto the secular power to be burned.

68. Christ's accusation, and cause why he was condemned unto death, was written over his head in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, that all men might know the cause: this was an argument that they used justice, (although they condemned him unjustly,) since men might see the offence and judgment joined together. John xix.

The Pope and bishops condemn men, and commit them unto the secular power, that they should execute the sentence. But this is a mischievous abomination, that they will not suffer the secular power to know

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the cause why they put men to death, worshipful, dis divines, Master Doctor. Oh, you gentle nobility, ponder this matter indifferently. Beware how you do execution, except you know the cause why. Think you the blood shall not be required on you, if for another's pleasure you destroy the work of God? They will say unto you, as the Jews said unto Pilate concerning Christ, If he were not an evil doer, we would not have delivered him unto you. Trust not their words, for (no doubt) they are liars; know the cause yourselves, and hear the matter unfeignedly. Think you they would not let you know the cause and judgment, if they did justice and not tyrannize? Be, therefore, no longer boys to them, which ought to be your servants. God hath given you his Spirit, grace, and understanding; hide not the talent that God hath given you, but do your diligence to see justice executed, secluding all tyranny, for that is your office appointed you of God.

Luke vi. 69. Christ saith, Blessed are ye when men hate you, curse you, and excommunicate you for the righteousness,—that is to say, you nothing guilty, nor worthy such affliction.

The Pope and bishops say, that their curse is sore to be feared, yea and that it maketh men as black as a coal in the sight of God, though they have not offended; insomuch that they must needs be damned, except they absolve them again: howbeit Christ saith, that they are blessed; wherefore Christ is false, or else they are most vain liars.

Luke xiv. 70. Christ said, When thou makest a dinner or feast, call not thy friends, kinsmen, and neighbours that are rich, but the poor, lame, and blind, which are not able to recompense thee; then shalt thou be happy, for it shall be rewarded thee in the resurrection of the just.

The Pope and bishops will call none such, for they think it great shame, but they call men of great autho-

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rity and riches, which will receive them with another feast; they had lever have their bellies well stuffed in this world, than to tarry for the promise of Christ. They think it long a coming.

71. Christ saith, Either make the tree good, and his fruit good also, or else make the tree naught, and his fruit naught also: meaning, that the tree first should be good, and then bring forth good fruit; the fruit maketh not the tree good, but the tree maketh the fruit good; although we cannot know that the tree is good, but by his fruit, (for we can judge nothing but by his outward operation,) yet God seeth the quickness in the root, which, in the time that God hath appointed him, shall bring forth his fruit; and approveth the tree to be good, although he seem dead unto us. The tree is Faith, which is the mother of all good works, which ever worketh by charity when he seeth occasion. Matt. v. Luke vi.

The Pope and bishops say, that the fruit maketh the tree good, clean contrary to all Scripture and reason. And thus turn they the trees and the roots upward, while they affirm that faith springeth and is made good of works, and not the contrary; even as a man would say, the fruit bringeth forth and maketh good the tree, and not the contrary. Oh! what madness is this! They would make men believe, if they should long continue, that the moon is made of green cheese.

72. Christ saith, I am the door of the fold: he that entereth not in by the door, but by some other way, is a thief and a murderer, and regardeth not the sheep. John x.

The Pope, yea and all the clergy, (for the most part,) enter not in by Christ, but they run in and are not called nor sent of Christ. One entereth by a bag of money, wherewith he buyeth a fat benefice. Another entereth by serving great men, and currying favour. Another, because he is a great man born, must be made a cardinal, or else a bishop. Some have voisons of abbeys and other places, to speak a good word for them to

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the king or other great men. Some enter through their curious singing and minion dancing; few, or none, for virtue and learning.

John x. 73. Christ saith, I am a good shepherd; a good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep.

The Pope and bishops say also, that they are good shepherds; howbeit, they pill and shear the sheep so nigh, that they leave not one lock of wool on their backs. And in all points may be likened unto the shepherds that Zacharias prophesied of; which saith, I shall raise up a shepherd in the earth, which shall not visit the things that are forsaken, and shall not seek that which is gone astray, neither yet heal the diseased, nor nourish and maintain that which standeth; but such a shepherd that shall nourish himself and not the sheep: and cryeth out of him, saying, Oh! thou shepherd and idol, think you that this shepherd will give his life for the sheep?

Matt. xxiii. 74. Christ saith, Desire you not to be called Master, for you have but one master, which is Christ, and all you are brothers.

The Pope will be called Most Holy, his cardinals Most Reverend, his bishops Reverend, his abbots and priors Most, and other glorious titles have they that pass Master far; and except thou call them by those names and titles, thou shalt run far into their indignation, let Christ say what he will.

Matt. xxiii. 75. Christ commanded his disciples that they should call no man Father on the earth, showing them that they had but one Father, which is in heaven.

The Pope must be called Most Holy Father: if thou give him not that name, he will excommunicate you out of his synagogue: reason not with him; you may show him the Scripture, but it availeth not, for he will wrest it, and wring it into a thousand fashions, and will never leave it until he have brought it unto his own purpose.

Acts vii. 76. Christ's faithful servant Stephen said, that God Almighty dwelleth not in temples that are made with

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man's hands, according unto the prophet's saying, Heaven is my seat, and the earth is my footstool. What house will you build for me? saith the Lord; which is the place of my rest? did not my hands make all these things? Isa. lxxvi. 2 Kings vii.

The Pope and his adherents say, that he dwelleth in this place and that place; the friars say, We have him, you must buy him of us; the monks say, He is with us, be good to our monastery, and ye shall be sure to have him: and so run the silly fools from Herod to Pilate. But they find not Christ, for he dwelleth in no place, but in the heart of a faithful man, which is the very temple of God.

77. Christ's apostle Paul saith, We ought not to think that God is like gold, silver, carved stones, or any such thing as man imagineth. 1 Cor. iii. Acts xvii.

The Pope and his adherents say, that he is like a stock and a stone, and causeth men to make images of him, though God commanded contrary, saying, Thou shalt make no graven image, neither any manner of similitude of those things which are in heaven above, or on the earth beneath, neither of those things which are in the water, or under the earth, neither shalt thou honour or worship them. Good Christian, beware of these idols, as St. John counselleth thee. Truly I think it be one of the greatest causes of this excœcation which God hath sent into the world for sin. Exod. xx. John v.

78. Christ said unto Peter, Thou art Simon the son of Jonah, thou shalt be called Cephas, which, if it be interpreted, signifieth a stone: as St. John saith in his gospel. John i.

The Pope saith, that Cephas signifieth the head, *Dist. xxii. ca. Sacrosancta;* and of that gathereth he to be head of all the bishops. Here doth he plainly contrary to gospel, which expoundeth Cephas to be a stone. What impudency is this! I think he would say also, that an ass were a man, if he thought to get any advantage through it.

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There are infinite other things wherein he contrarieth Christ, inasmuch that, if it be diligently examined, I think there is no word that Christ spake, but the other hath taught or made a law against it. Howbeit, for to avoid tediousness, we shall leave them unto your own judgment, for they are soon searched out and espied. Judge, Christian Reader, all these things with a simple eye; be not partially addict to the one nor to the other, but judge them by the Scripture, and acknowledge that to be the truth which God's word doth allow, avoiding all other doctrine, for it springeth of Satan. Be not ashamed to confess poor Christ, and to take him for thy
Matt. x. head, before these ravenous wolves; for then shall he confess thee again before his Father, and the angels in heaven. Then shalt thou be inheritor with Jesus Christ, and the faithful son of thy Father which is in heaven, to whom be all glory eternally. Amen.

Here endeth the Antithesis between Christ and the Pope.

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